

Narragunnawali
Reconciliation in Education

**NAKRA
GUNNA
WALI**

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Marist College Emerald
August 2023 to August 2024



CONTENTS

[Vision for Reconciliation](#)

[The Working Group](#)

[Reconciliation Action Plan \(RAP\) Actions](#)

[Relationships](#)

[Respect](#)

[Opportunities](#)



VISION FOR RECONCILIATION

Marist College vision for reconciliation is for all staff and students to understand and respectfully engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures at a local and national level. We aim to provide an environment and supportive structures that empower and enable First Nations students and all students to attain personal success in life, while acknowledging the continuing richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples cultures and heritage. Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, with Mary and Champagnat as our models, Marist College Emerald is a Catholic faith community teaching Gospel values nurturing the giftedness and dignity of each person. We will use our five characteristics to guide us through our reconciliation journey.

Presence- Building respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and community members, where mutual respect, understanding and love is shown.

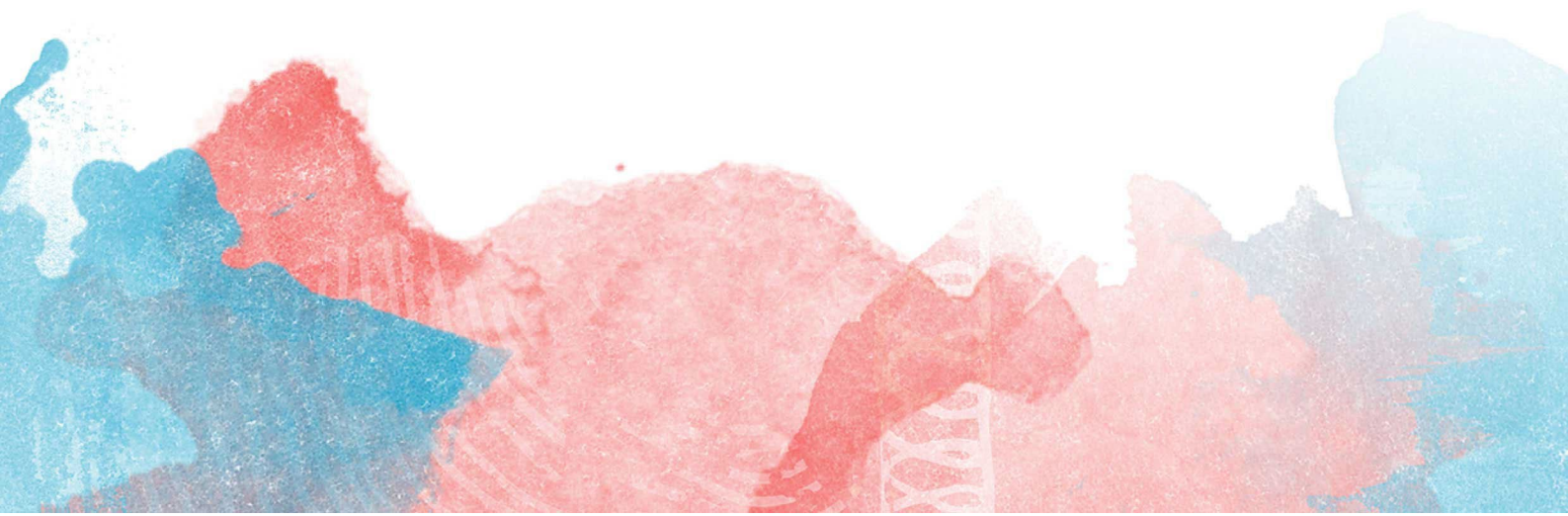
Simplicity- Where honesty and truth telling from the oldest continuing culture is acknowledged before God and ourselves.

Family Spirit - Offering a culturally safe place and warm sense of belonging for all students including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, staff and families.

In the way of Mary - Marist College will continue to develop equal and equitable opportunities, open dialogue and respectful relationships so all students, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, achieve their best possible outcomes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Marist College Emerald acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands, waterways and skies across Australia. We pay our respect and acknowledge the Kairi people as the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which Marist College is situated and extend that respect to the Wangan and Western Kangaroo people. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging and honor them for maintaining the cultural and intellectual foundations that ensure these traditions continue in perpetuity.



RAP WORKING GROUP

Name	Position
Kierin Walford	Staff (Indigenous Education Worker)
Damian Coles	Assistant Principal / Director
Melissa Clifford	Staff (non-teaching)
Lia Creedon	Community member
Cameron Woods	Parent/carer
A.Monique Evans	Community member
Susan Harmer-Mitchell	Staff (teaching)
Renae Miles	Staff (teaching)
Gordon Ryan	Staff (teaching)
Margaret Toomey	Staff (teaching)
Mark Shields	Staff (teaching)
Maria Parlato	Staff (teaching)
Tamara Gray	Staff (non-teaching)



RAP ACTIONS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Classroom

COMMITMENT

We are committed to engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our learning activities. Having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in learning environments is vital when teaching about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.





RAP ACTIONS

COMMITMENT

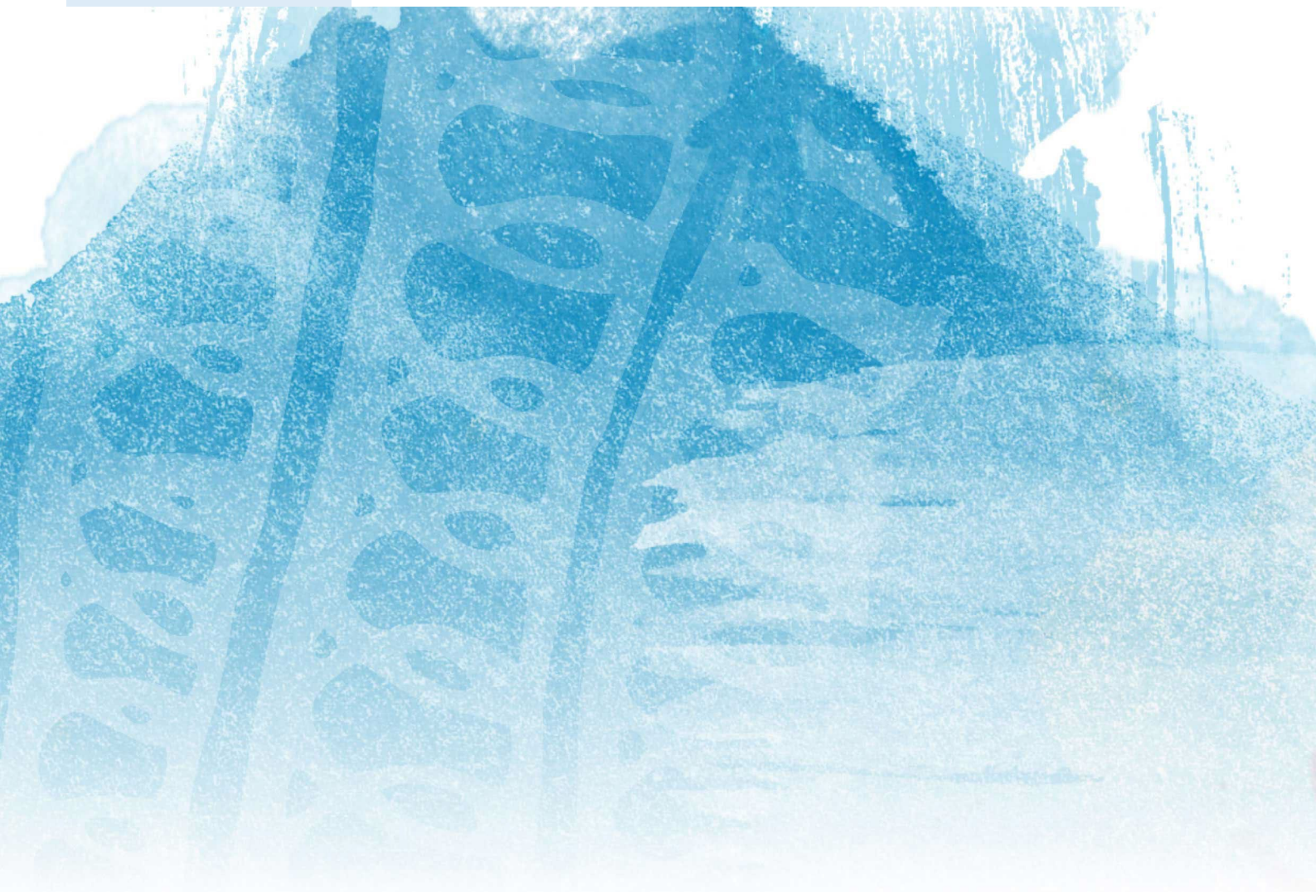
Cultural
Responsiveness
for Staff

Staff are supported to reflect on and build their cultural responsiveness to improve their practice and best support the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Staff are provided with a range of opportunities to build their knowledge and understanding of their own positionality and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, contributions and cultures.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Welcome to Country	Where appropriate, significant events at our school commence with a Welcome to Country. Protocols for welcoming visitors to Country have been a part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for thousands of years. By incorporating these protocols into formal events and important occasions, we recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Custodians of the Land.
Celebrate National Reconciliation Week	Our school community celebrates National Reconciliation Week (NRW) which is held from 27 May to 3 June each year by talking about reconciliation in the classroom and around the school, and celebrating with the community. NRW is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.
Build Relationships with Community	We commit to building relationships with our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community that are built on mutual respect, trust and inclusiveness. We value these relationships and their role in helping to create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous staff, students, children and community members.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Teach about Reconciliation	Our school community is committed to learning about reconciliation in Australia. Having an understanding of the concept, history and progress of reconciliation is an important part of continuing the reconciliation journey. This understanding also helps to strengthen engagement with our school's RAP by positioning it within the broader story of reconciliation in Australia.
Explore Current Affairs and Issues	We are committed to raising awareness of current affairs and issues in the public domain that are of particular significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the process of reconciliation. This will be done through curriculum delivery, policies and procedures, and will be integrated into the ethos of our school.



RESPECT



AROUND THE SCHOOL

RAP ACTIONS

COMMITMENT

Acknowledgement
of Country

Our school recognises the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Country on which we live, work, learn and grow. All staff and students have the opportunity to show respect to Traditional Owners and Custodians by regularly conducting an Acknowledgement of Country at meetings and events throughout the year.

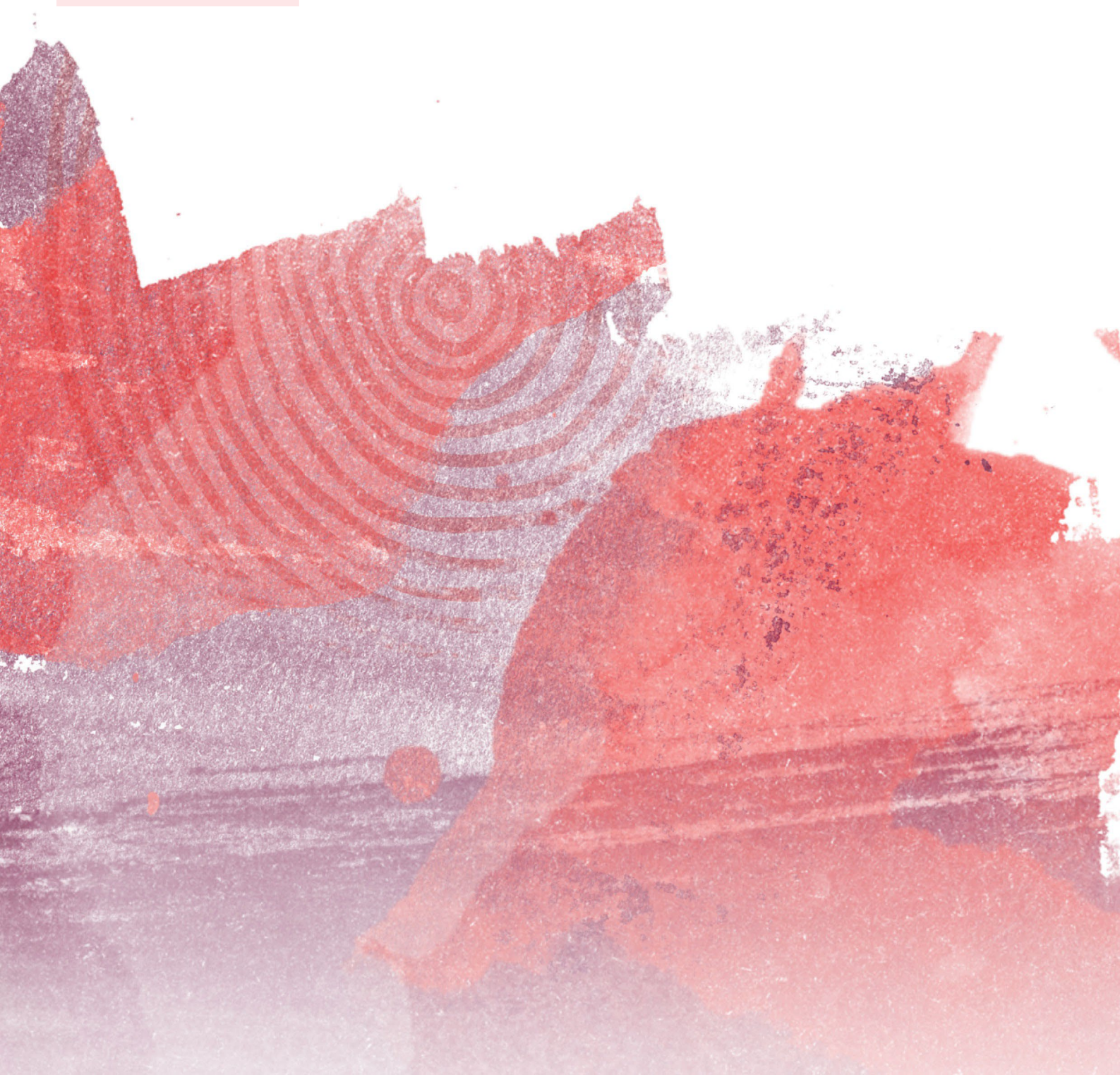


RESPECT



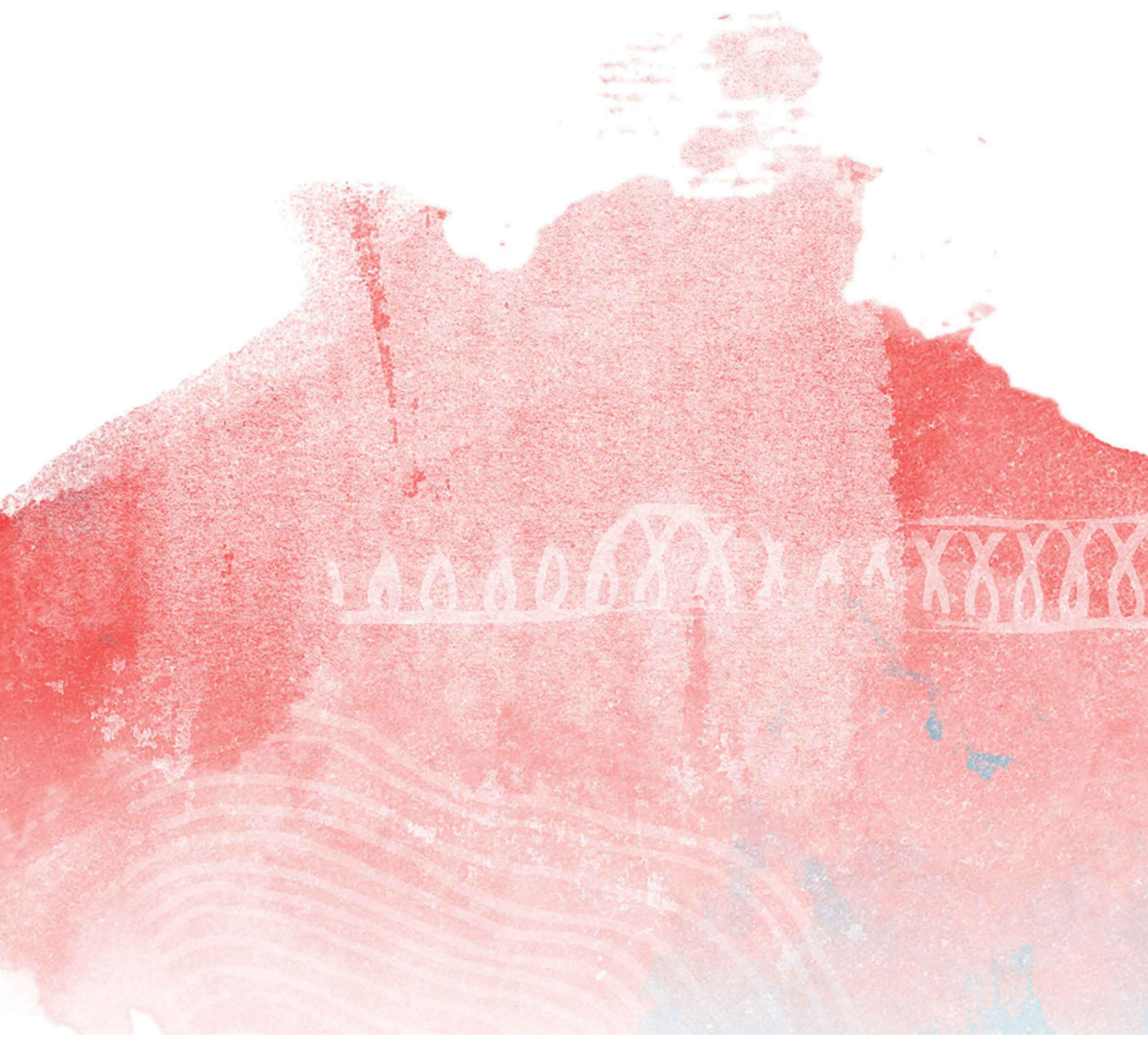
WITH THE COMMUNITY

RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags	Our school flies or displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags as a demonstration of our pride and respect for the histories, cultures and contributions of Australia's First Peoples. Flying or displaying the flags promotes a sense of community partnership and a commitment toward reconciliation.
Take Action Against Racism	We will raise awareness of racism, its impacts and how to respond effectively when it happens. We will do this through an anti-racism strategy tailored to the needs of our school.



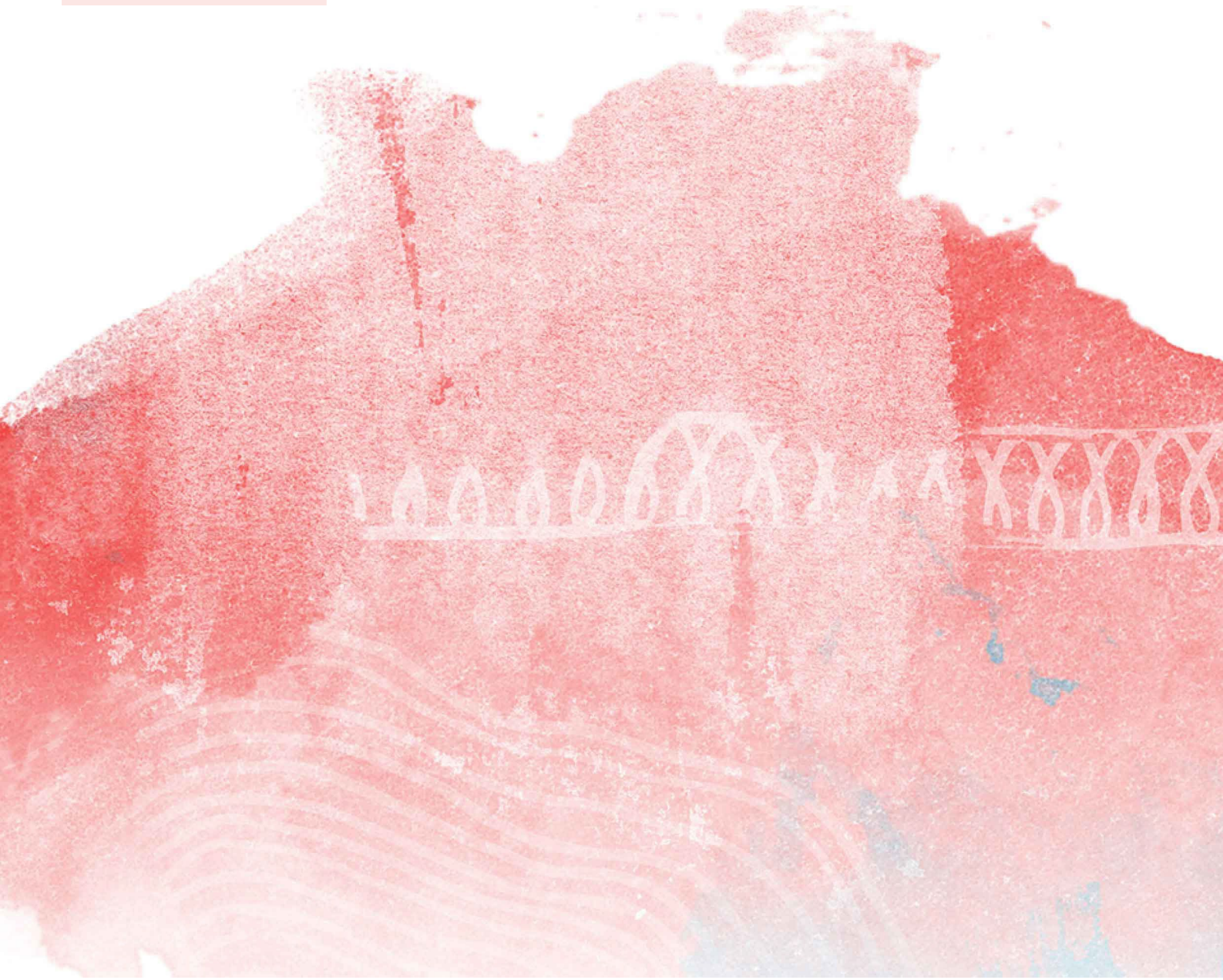


RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Curriculum Planning	<p>Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in curriculum planning, development and evaluation processes is a key and ongoing consideration across all year levels and learning areas. Curriculum documents have or will be audited to identify the extent to which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions are already embedded, and to identify opportunities for strengthening the representation of this content in the curriculum.</p>





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Inclusive Policies	All staff in our school are aware of policies that refer specifically to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and increasing knowledge of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Australia. We have a plan in place to ensure all staff comply with these policies in their daily practice. Our internal policies have been, or will be, amended to ensure they are also inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and increase knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Australia.
Staff Engagement with RAP	Commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) from all staff is essential for developing a RAP that is implemented in a meaningful and sustainable way. All staff will be involved in the ongoing development and implementation of our RAP through staff development opportunities facilitated by the RAP Working Group.





RAP ACTIONS	COMMITMENT
Celebrate RAP Progress	We are committed to reflecting on the progress made in the growth of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions in our school. We will track the progress of our RAP, continually revisit our commitments, and celebrate our achievements, while generating new ideas to develop and sustain our RAP into the future.

